BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform Christian School Lessons
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Bible Material: Luke 2, 4
Devotional Reading: Luke 1:46-55.

God's Gift

Lesson for December 25, 1960

Dr. Foreman

ON THE last Sunday of the Old Year, it is fitting that our thoughts should go back along memory's lane through the shadows and sunshine of these past 12 months. But since the last Sunday is also Christmas, our minds go far, far back on the road of time, to a story we all heard as children. It is a story that ordinary prose can scarcely tell. The story of the first Christmas is told in poetry. The light of beauty shone on the child at Bethlehem. Not only in the gospel of **Luke**, but all through the New Testament, whenever a writer speaks of Christ's coming to earth, joy and wonder break all bounds. A baby was born on that **first Christmas**, a baby who was a **statistic** in the Emperors census. Some people live and die, no more than numbers in a census-book. But with Jesus it was altogether different.

"A Great Joy Which Will Come"

Looking only at Luke, we select three expressions out of the first words about Jesus after he yas born. The reader can do no better, if a little open time comes on this Christmas afternoon or evening—no better than to sit down with this second chapter of Luke and mull over the other things that were said about the baby and the child Jesus. The three thoughts where we center attention all come from the angel who spoke to the shepherds.

The first thing he said was "Be not afraid." It would have been a good thing if all the creeds, and all the thinking about Jesus that learned and unlearned men have done for the 20 centuries now nearly gone, had started at this point. A scholarly theologian had just finished preaching a sermon about Jesus, one morning. Shortly after the service an older Christian in the congregation, a former missionary, remarked: "If that is what Jesus was like, the mystery is how he managed to have any friends." The theologian had preached a book-Christ, there was no joy about him, a Christ who was correct but not contagious. Another professor writes about Jesus and calls him "God's attack on man." If that had been the case the angel should have said with a scowl, "Crawl in the dust, you worms! God has invaded you, he is about to attack, you have no room to hide." Not at all. This was good news of a great joy which will come to **all** the people. Christianity which is not a great joy, which does not begin with joy, is no more than a sad imitation.

"A Savior Who is Christ the Lord"

Christ is given many names in the New Testament. Three of the most important are here in the angel's words to the shepherds. Savior, Christ, Lord. What Christ had, and has, to do with the forgiveness of sins, was left in God's providence for other men to learn. God did not send his angel to instruct the Shepherds in a Theory of the Atonement, they were not told a word about a Virgin Birth. They were shepherds, not theologians. They would not have understood such matters. But they could understand "Savior." It was an Old Testament word, sometimes it meant God and sometimes it meant a man. "Deliverer" expresses the meaning the Old Testament puts into the word. A Savior was **always** one who did for others what they most desperately needed and did for them what they could never do for themselves.

The shepherds understood the other words too, Christ and Lord. Christ the Messiah, God's chosen King, we have seen how this promise was clung to through long centuries. **It this baby was the Christ,** it meant that the long waiting and hoping was over, **God's Kingdom was now at hand. And Lord—the** word was not new. It was on imperial documents, it was on the imperial statutes, men had died **serially, and would die again, be**cause they would not call the Caesar "Lord." But here was a **Lord, THE Lord of mankind, even** of Caesar.

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Appomattox is a growing town.

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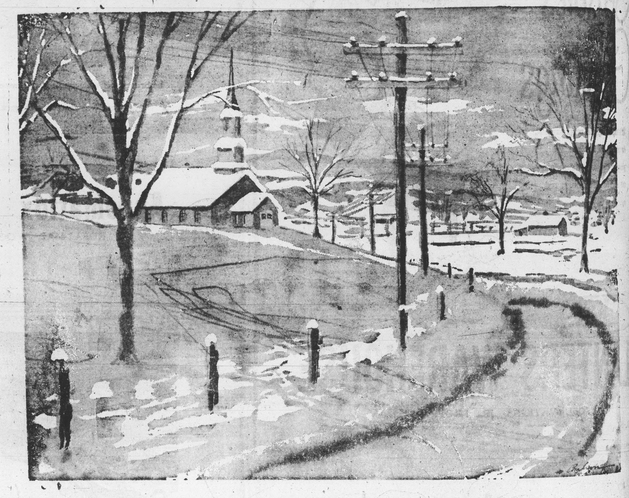
The nuclear-powered USS Enterprise, christened Sept. 24th, has eight nuclear reactors producing horsepower rated at over 200,000. The reactors are expected to operate for five years on their first charge of fuel.

WE SHARE
PEACE!



We Share PEACE.

If the Great Enemies of real PEACE were to be Banished, we Should Then Enjoy Perpetual PEACE.

We SHARE the Desire to Help Banish These Enemies.

. . . avarice, the Enemy of real Peace. We Share the Hope that this Greediness of Man can be Banished.

. . . ambition, the Enemy of Peace. We Share the Hope that when this Ambition is Ruthless in Man, We can Help to Banish It.

. . . anger, the Enemy of Peace. We share the Hope that this Thoughtlessness by Man can be Banished.

. . . envy, the Enemy of Peace. We Share the Hope that this Selfishness of Man can be Banished.

. . . pride, the Enemy of Peace. We Share the Hope that this Arrogance of Man can be Banished.

Meanwhile, we Share all the Blessings We Enjoy Today from the PEACE We are Privileged to Have, Imperfect though it may Be.

And at this Christmas time, as we Celebrate the Birthday of the Prince of Peace, we are Especially Glad to Live in a Country where we can Share this PEACE.

May this Heritage Ever be Defended; and Ever be Enjoyed.

A Very Merry Christmas to all our Southside Virginia Friends.

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ERS' ITEMS

...afroo makes a "cen-... — nom cone ob-...ts the eye and gives ...ss of character?

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YOUR CHILD
Vision
Delinquent

...Complete
...re Care
...mit Your
PHYSICIAN
...See Your
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...dress prints, and bleach should be used as seldom as possible.

A room with plain walls and solid color bedspreads is the perfect setting for a design in curtains—or you can have a bedspread and curtains of the same design if you prefer.

S C A MEETING

The Lynchburg District of the Student Cooperative Association held its annual meeting Saturday at Altavista High School.

"Triumph Through Integrity" was the theme of the meeting which was attended by students, principals, and teachers from the counties of Campbell, Appomattox, Amherst, and Bedford and the City of Lynchburg.

Those who attended from Appomattox Elementary School were Samsie Carter, Carroll Goodrich, and Earl Martin. They were accompanied by their sponsor, Mrs. Jean A. Hesson.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

What are the coldest and hottest months of the year? And where in the United States does it get hottest and coldest?

The coldest month in the year, on the average, is January. The hottest month is July. Although there is less sunshine in December than in January and more sunshine in June than in July, the extremes in weather are slightly behind the pattern of the sun.

The extrem ehigh temperature recorded at an official weather station in the United States in recent years was at Phoe ix, Ari-na — 118 degrees.

The coldest temperature recorded in this country in recent years (at an official weather station) was at Bismarck, North Dakota—where the temperature went down to 45 degrees below zero.

play safe — drive carefully.

Physicists offer new method in fusion tests.

South Pole study gives clue to cause of auroras.

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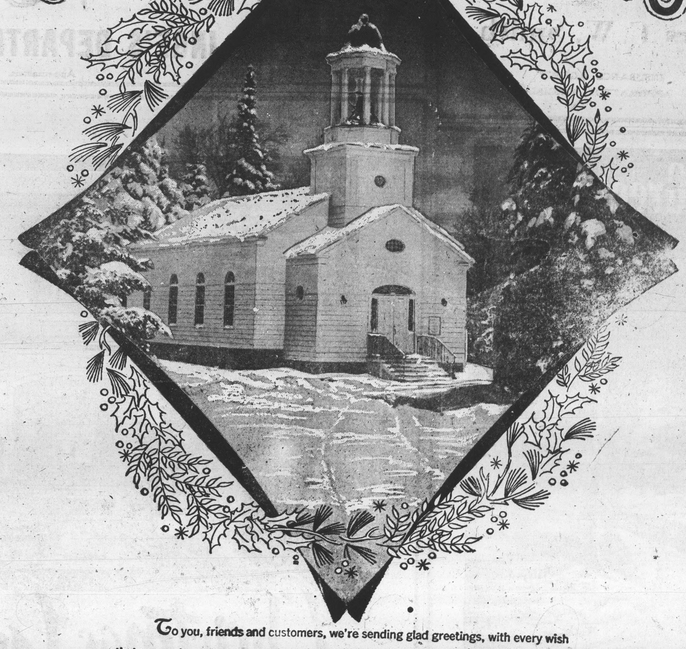
SEASON'S GREETINGS



To you, friends and customers, we're sending glad greetings, with every wish that you and yours may enjoy a most wonderful holiday time, blessed by good health, surrounded by good fellowship—and always of good cheer. For us, one of the brightest joys of the season is the opportunity it gives us to express, once again, our heartfelt gratitude for your continuing patronage and good will. Most heartily, we thank you!

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